

Message Text

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SUBJ: TURKISH MEDIA COVERAGE OF VARIOUS TOPICS

1. LOCAL STORIES, PRIMARILY CONCERNING THE ECONOMY AND CHANGES IN THE BUREAUCRACY BY THE NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT, DOMINATED WEDNESDAY EDITIONS OF THE TURKISH PRESS. THE TOPICS BELOW RECEIVED RELATIVELY LIGHT COVERAGE.

2. CENTO MEETING IN ANKARA. SEVERAL PAPERS NOTED THE MEETING ON FRONT PAGES, BUT ONLY SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN GAVE THE MEETING TOP PLAY. ACCORDING TO GUNAYDIN, THE CENTO MEETING'S IMPORTANCE WILL BE SECONDARY TO BARGAINING OVER THE CYPRUS ISSUE AND GRECO-TURKISH DISPUTES. CITING "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES," THE PAPER SAID THAT THE ROME MEETINGS

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HAD GIVEN THE PARTIES AN OPPORTUNITY TO WEIGH EACH OTHER'S

POSITIONS AND TO GAIN CONFIDENCE. IN ANKARA, SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THE BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER WILL EXERT PRESSURE ON TURKEY TO RESTORE PEACE AND ORDER TO THE REGION. THE STORY SAID THE SENATE'S VOTE TO RESTORE AID TO TURKEY WAS INTENDED TO FURTHER THIS OBJECTIVE.

3. TURCO-CREEK CONTACTS. WEDNESDAY EDITIONS GAVE ONLY PASSING ATTENTION TO GREEK REACTION TO AN INTERVIEW WITH LE MONDE BY PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL. AMONG MAJOR DAILIES, ONLY PRO-DEMIREL SON HAVADIS GAVE THE INTERVIEW FRONT PAGE ATTENTION. THE STORY WAS CARRIED UNDER THE HEADLINE "DEMIREL: 'WE WON'T MAKE THE AEGEAN A GREEK LAKE'". (SEE SEPTEL) IN COMMENTARY ON GRECO-TURKISH CONTACTS, MILLIYET EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI DECLARED THAT THE ROME TALKS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN THAT THE PARTIES HAD BEGUN TO NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY, SOMETHING THE TURKISH SIDE HAD LONG FAVORED. IPEKCI NOTED THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONFLICTS IN ANKARA, ATHENS AND NICOSIA WILL MAKE A SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS DIFFICULT. "IT WILL BE HIGHLY DIFFICULT FOR THE PRESENT (TURKISH) GOVERNMENT TO AGREE TO CONCESSIONS TO CHANGE THE PRESENT SITUATION. THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THIS DIFFICULTY IS FOR BOTH THE GOVERNING AND OPPOSITION PARTIES, THE RPP IN PARTICULAR, TO AGREE ON A JOINT POLICY ON CYPRUS."

4. SENATE VOTE ON AID. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE COMMENT IN THE PRESS OR BY TURKISH OFFICIALS ON THE SENATE VOTE. IN WEDNESDAY EDITIONS, FRONT PAGE STORIES IN SEVERAL PAPERS FOCUSED ON A REPORTED CHANGE BY SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY IN HIS VOTE ON THE AID-RESTORATION BILL. MILLIYET'S WELL-CONNECTED ANKARA CORRESPONDENT NILUFER YALCIN REPORTED THAT: "THE ATMOSPHERE IN ANKARA POLITICAL CIRCLES...CAN BE SAID TO BE THAT 'EVEN THOUGH THE REACTION TO THE EMBARGO IS NOW UNDERSTOOD BY AMERICAN POLITICIANS, THE INFLUENCE OF THE GREEK LOBBY AND POLITICIANS OF GREEK DESCENT IS CONTINUING AND IT WILL TAKE MORE TIME TO BRING THE REALITIES TO THE SURFACE.'" IN COMMENTARY, ALI SIRMEN, WRITING IN MODERATE LEFT CUMHURİYET DECLARED THAT THE SENATE VOTE WAS AN INDICATION OF THE MORE SUBMISSIVE ATMOSPHERE THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT HAS BROUGHT TO TURKEY.

5. NATO MINISTERIALS. HURRIYET, TURKEY'S LARGEST DAILY, GAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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FRONT PAGE PLAY TO AN INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL SEMIH SANCAR, CHIEF OF THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF, WHO IS IN BRUSSELS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MINISTERIALS. SANCAR REPORTEDLY TOLD HURRIYET THAT CONTINUATION OF THE AMERICAN ARMS EMBARGO WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO NATO AND RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID TURKISH DEFENSE NEEDS COULD BE MET FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, BUT NOTED THE AID CUT "IS CERTAINLY EFFECTIVE."

OTHER COVERAGE NOTED BRIEFLY THAT TURKISH DEFENSE MINISTER
FERIT MELEN DEPARTED ANKARA TUESDAY TO TAKE PART IN THE
MEETINGS. NO EDITORIAL COMMENT NOTED.
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